

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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TAGS: PINT, CM

SUBJ: UNC PARTY CONGRESS CONCLUDES

REF: YAOUNDE 506

1. SUMMARY. CAMEROON NATIONAL UNION (UNC) PARTY CONGRESS CLOSED FEBRUARY 12 WITH ELECTION OF NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE, READING OF THREE RESOLUTIONS (POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL) ADOPTED BY DELEGATES, AND AHIDJO'S CLOSING BENEDICTION. INTERESTING TO SEE WILL BE STILL UNDECIDED COMPOSITION OF NEW NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU WHICH WILL BE KEY PARTY DIRECTORATE WITHIN CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND HOW PRESIDENT AHIDJO OPERATES WITH THAT BODY. END SUMMARY.

2. APPARENTLY BY OVERSIGHT, NOTHING ANNOUNCED AT FEBRUARY 15 FINAL PUBLIC PLENARY SESSION OF UNC CONGRESS ABOUT ACTUAL AMENDMENT OF PARTY STATUTES TO CREATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CC), OR ABOUT WHO WAS ELECTED TO THAT BODY, OR EVEN THAT NYIDJO FORMALLY RE-ELECTED NATIONAL PARTY PRESIDENT. IT CLEAR FROM MATTER-OF-FACT REFERENCES IN VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS AND CONTENT OF OFFICIAL CAMEROON
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NEWS AGENCY ARTICLES, HOWEVER, THAT AHIDJO REMAINS UNC NATIONAL

PRESIDENT AND THAT CENTRAL COMMITTEE NOW EXISTS, CC REPLACES OLD 35-MEMBER NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU (NPB), COMPRISES AHIDJO AS NATIONAL PARTY PRESIDENT PLUS 42 ELECTED MEMBERS PLUS SIX MEMBERS AUTOMATICALLY APPOINTED BY VIRTUE OF THEIR POSITIONS (PRES OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, PRIME MINISTER, PRES OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, PRES OF UNC PARLIAMENTARY GROUP IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, PRES OF OFUNC WOMEN'S WING OF PARTY, AND PRES OF UNTC UNIFIA LABOR MOVEMENT). CC TAKES OVER FUNCTIONS OF OLD NPB: NOMINATING CANDIDATES FOR POPULAR ELECTIONS AND CARRYING OUT DECISIONS OF PARTY CONFERENCES AND COUNCILS. NEW NPB TO COMPRISE 12 MEMBERS ELECTED BY CC FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERSHIP "ON RECOMMENDATION OF NATIONAL PRESIDENT" TO HELP LATTER BETWEEN MEETINGS OF CC. NEW NPB THUS REPLACES FORMER 8-MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF OLD NPB. NBEM OLD NPB ACTUALLY HAD ONLY 30 STILL-LIVING MEMBERS INCLUDING AHIDJO. OF THESE, SEVEN DROPPED FROM NEW CC, INCLUDING MOST NOTABLY FORMER OAU SEC GEN NZO ELANGAKY. THERE ARE THUS 22 "ELECTED" HOLDOVERS, INCLUDING MANY OLDTIME POLITICAL LEADERS OF PRE-UNC SEPARATE PARTIES, AMONG THEM EX-VICE PRESIDENT FONCHA. MOST OF 20 NEW MEMBERS APPEAR TO BE UNKNOWN ON NATIONAL SCENE.

4. COMMENT: SINCE NEW NPB APPARENTLY DESTINED TO BECOME KEY PARLH DIRECTORATE, IT SEEMS FAIRLY ACADEMIC WHETHER CC AS WHOLE IS LARGELY STAFFED BY ABLE DOERS OR HACKS. IT WILL BE OF MORE INTEREST TO SEE WHO IS "ELECTED" TO NPB AND HOW THAT BODY WILL FUNCTION IN CONJUNCTION WITH AHIDJO. "INNOVATIONS" AT PARTY'S TOP COULD BE NO MORE THAN NAME CHANGES OF ORGANS THAT ALREADY EXIST WITH SOME EXPANSION OF MEMBERSHIP. IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY AT THIS TIME WHAT IS REALLY INVOLVED OR PREDICT HOW THESE ORGANS WILL EVOLVE.

5. THE THREE POLICY RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY CONGRESS CONTAINED NO RPT NO SURPRISES. IN GROSSO MODO THEY FAITHFULLY REFLECTED FULL LITANY COVERED IN AHIDJO'S KEYNOTE SPEECH (REFTEL).

6. AHIDJO'S BRIEF CLOSING SPEECH WAS ESSENTIALLY ROUTINE. MODERATELY NOTEWORTHY WAS HIS MENTION THAT PARTY CONGRESS IN DOUALA WAS FULL SUCCESS DESPITE "LUCUBRATIONS" OF PROPHETS OF DOOM BOTH WITHIN COUNTRY AND ABROAD. THIS WAS YET ANOTHER OF THE MANY PUBLIC ADMISSIONS OF MALAISE AND DISSENT.

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7. EMBASSY SUBMITTING BY SEPTTEL BRIEF ASSESSMENT OF UNC PARTY CONGRESS. ALSO POUCHING TO DEPT (AF/C) TEXTS OF PERTINENT CONGRESS SPEECHES, RESOLUTIONS, ETC. WIND-UP AIRGRAM ON CONGRESS WILL INCLUDE INTER ALIA NAMES AND IDENTIFICATION OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

MOORE

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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